

Tribal Monitoring Guidance Workgroup Conference Call 9/26/05

Attendees:

Bill Grantham (NTEC), Bill Thompson (Penobscot), Brandi Toft (Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe), Joy Wiecks (Fond du Lac), Lisa Riener (Quinault Nation), Mehrdad Khatibi (ITEP), Stephen Hartsfield (NTAA), Keith Rose (R10), Leland Grooms (R7), Joe Tikvart (OAQPS/SEE), Julie McClintock (OAQPS), Tami Laplante (OAQPS)

Discussion:

Julie McClintock began the conference call by indicating there were three topics to cover. They are: review of the reorganization of section titles for the tribal monitoring guidance as proposed by Bill Grantham; progress on writing individual sections of the guidance document; and plans for the NTAA meeting in early October. Bill Thompson (Penobscot) noted that he is replacing Eric Nicolar on the Tribal monitoring workgroup.

Regarding the reorganization of section titles, that proposal has been circulated to workgroup members and includes new general headings or groupings, such as background, policies and strategies, guidance for Tribes, and Tribal perspective; each of the original twelve sections would be included under one of these general headings. It was generally agreed that these general heading titles are good and provide a better organization of the guidance material. However, it was thought that it would be better to delay implementation of the general heading titles, since a change now at the beginning of the writing process could be confusing; the workgroup should come back to this proposal as the guidance material is written and gets organized. Comments from NTAA meeting participants should be solicited.

We then proceeded by reviewing the status of each section. Julie restated the need for a summary paragraph concerning each section to help prepare for the NTAA meeting and the desirability of getting workgroup members who are attending the NTAA meeting to be involved in leading discussion at that meeting. The status is:

I. Purpose and Audience

Bill Grantham, Mehrdad Khatibi, and Julie McClintock have been working on this section and exchanging a redline/strikeout draft. This draft will be made available for the NTAA meeting.

II. Guidelines for EPA Support for Tribal Air Monitoring

Due to the press of air monitoring demands for areas affected by Hurricane Katrina, Phil Lorang has not extended this topic beyond what is available in the Version 5 draft describing this guidance document. The discussion on guidelines for EPA support will be made available for the NTAA meeting as a

placeholder. Julie will send out the Version 5 draft again in case some workgroup members have previously missed it.

III. Background for Planning Tribal Air Monitoring

A rough draft of this section has been completed, but further work on the relationship to Tribal needs is necessary; it will be made available for the NTAA meeting.

IV. Tribal Air Quality Issues, Relevant Ambient Air Monitoring, and Current and Recent Tribal Air Monitoring Activities Directed Towards These Issues

Participants in writing this section are currently reviewing a draft prepared by Norm Beloin. The draft and any available revisions from comments will be made available for the NTAA meeting. Keith Rose volunteered to draft a summary paragraph.

V. Implementation of Monitoring

Joy Wiecks and Leland Grooms have completed a partial draft which will be made available for the NTAA meeting; more material will be included as it becomes available. Joy agreed to provide a summary paragraph.

VI. The Role of Tribal Monitoring in the National Monitoring Strategy

Ryan Callison has provided some useful historical information, but Phil Lorang will be addressing this issue after the NTAA meeting.

VII. Understanding Monitoring Data and Its Implications

It was reported that Motria Caudill has developed some ideas, but had not yet been able to discuss them with members of the section team. Her ideas include: background on the purpose and objectives of monitoring, the role of DQOs and QAPPs, secondary benefits of monitoring including NAAQS determinations and impacts of air toxics on health, role of source-receptor techniques, and references to other documents. Julie will request a summary paragraph from Motria for the NTAA meeting.

VIII. Storage and Access to Monitoring Data

With the participation of Farshid Farsi, Tami Laplante, and Phil Lorang a problem statement has been drafted and will be made available for the NTAA meeting. Additional work is planned on topics such as description of AQS, who has access, and input to AQS as related to Tribal needs.

IX. Assessment of Ambient Air Quality in Indian Country in the Absence of Air Monitoring

Keith Rose indicated that conference calls had been held among section team members and six subsections identified, including web-based information, data interpolation, local-scale models (to be written by a member of Region 10 staff), large scale grid models (support from Pat Dolwick for writing is

being sought), Smoke models (U.S. Forest Service) and the HSPLIT model. Inclusion of Tribal Emission Inventory Software Solution (TEISS) for use with air quality models was suggested; TEISS is a Tribal product that imports information from NEI and also allows use of local emissions information that may not be in NEI. A completed section is expected by the end of October. Julie has contacted Pat Dolwick and requested writing support on grid models.

X. How to Request EPA Funding and Other Support

Stephen Hartsfield is bringing documentation together and will include results from the NTAA meeting by mid-October. Material on the Tribal strategic plan and budget matrix updates is being included. A summary paragraph will be provided to Julie.

XI. Other Air Quality Management Program Elements

It was noted that Leroy Williams has volunteered to pull together information from available documents.

XII. The Tribal Perspective

Lisa Riener will be providing available materials to Julie for the NTAA meeting.

Julie concluded this discussion by reemphasizing that a summary paragraph is needed for each section so that attendees at the NTAA meeting can get a sense of what the monitoring guidance document is about; questions for discussion would be a helpful addition. Any material for sections that are fully or partially completed will also be provided to the NTAA meeting. Submittal to Julie was requested as soon as possible, but not later than Thursday, September 29, so that 100 copies can be made prior to the NTAA meeting.

Next the discussion moved to planning for the NTAA meeting. It is expected that Julie McClintock and Annabelle Allison will be overall moderators for the Tribal monitoring discussion on October 5 starting at 8:45am. Members of the Tribal monitoring workgroup who are present at the NTAA meeting should be involved in leading discussion at appropriate times. It was noted that Ryan Callison was already scheduled for a presentation on the monitoring program (~20 minutes). Other topics related to the guidance document on which discussion should focus include: overview of why the document is needed, it's major purpose, and "meaty" sections (including Ryan's planned presentation). The four sections with the most substance on which to focus are:

Section I. Purpose and Audience

Section IV. Tribal Air Quality Issues, Relevant Ambient Air Monitoring, and Current and Recent Tribal Air Monitoring Activities

Section V. Implementation of Monitoring

Section IX. Assessment of Ambient Air Quality in Indian Country

It is thought that more discussion will be obtained from smaller groups and that participants in the NTAA meeting should be divided into four breakout groups. Each group should have a facilitator and a note taker (using a flipchart). Stephen suggested

that it should be possible to convert the flip chart notes to a “bullet” summary of major comments from the NTAA meeting participants.

Following the conference call, Julie compiled a list of workgroup participants who plan to attend the NTAA meeting and proposed the following agenda for comment:

1. Overview of Guidance Document Julie and Annabelle 15 minutes
 - Why?
 - What we hope to accomplish?
 - Topics to be covered
 - Process
2. Key sections for more information -- a panel??? 20 minutes
 - Section I "Purpose and audience" Bill Grantham
 - Section IV "Tribal Air Quality Issues" Norm Beloin, EPA Region I
 - Section V. "Implementation of Monitoring" Nick Axtell
 - Section IX "Assessment of AQ in absence of air monitoring" Ryan Callison, ITEC
 - Tribal section ??
3. Your input: 4 discussion groups 45 minutes small group discussion
 - (1) Section I Purposes Facilitator: Julie McClintock
Subject matter expert Bill Grantham
 - (2) Tribal Air Quality Issues Facilitator: Mehrdad Khatibi
Subject matter expert: Norm Beloin
 - (3) AQ assessment in absence of monitoring data Facilitator: Sara Kelly
Subject matter expert: Ryan Callison
 - (4) Tribal Perspective; Facilitator: Farshid Farsi
4. Change groups: 45 minute discussion
5. Report Out 45 minutes

Next Steps:

The goal is to have draft guidance materials available for review by the time of the NTAA meeting that is scheduled for October 3 - 6, 2005.

Summary paragraphs, outlines, questions, and fully written section material that are available should be submitted to Julie before COB on Thursday, September 29.

The next conference call for the Tribal monitoring workgroup is planned for Monday, October 17 at 1:00pm EDT; conference line will be (919) 541-4557. Results of the NTAA meeting relative to draft Tribal monitoring guidance materials and the overall status of the draft guidance document will be reviewed during this meeting.